

Washington State Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting

Saturday, April 24, 2004
8:30am – 3:30pm
Public Service Center
BOCC Training Room, RM 679
Sixth Floor
1300 Franklin St.
Vancouver, WA 98666

Meeting Summary

Attendance

BPAC Citizen Members:

Mark Semrau, Chair - Snohomish, Skagit, Island, & Whatcom Counties
Todd Smith, Vice-Chair - Adams, Okanogan, Douglas, Chelan, & Grant Counties
Ernie Grillo, Past Chair - King County
David McCulloch - Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Mason, Thurston, Kitsap, & Pierce Counties
David Levinger - Statewide Pedestrian Representative
Jennifer Campos - Pacific, Lewis, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark, Skamania, & Klickitat Counties
Joseph Johnson - Adams, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Lincoln, Spokane, & Whitman Counties
Greg Pezoldt - County Government Representative

Members of the Public:

Steve Brown, Tacoma Wheelmen

BPAC Ex Officio Members:

Faye Jenkins-Edwards, WSDOT Southwest Region
Donna Storeide, WSDOT South Central Region
Barbara Briggs, WSDOT Northwest Region
Renee Zimmerman, WSDOT Urban Corridors Office

WSDOT Committee Staff:

Paula Reeves, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator

Speakers:

Leni Oman, Director, WSDOT Research Office
Barbara Culp, Exec. Director, Bicycle Alliance of Washington
Keith McGowan, Environmental Coordinator, WSDOT's I-405 Project

Introductions

Mark Semrau called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Approval of Meeting Summary from Prior Meeting

Next, the committee approved the March Meeting Summary with several corrections.

Public Comment

Barbara Culp spoke on the issue of an official request for Public Records regarding the authority of the WSDOT to approve bicycle events on state highways. A recent request approval of an event was denied by WSDOT. This event has received approval the last six years. The department apparently didn't approve the event this year because of concern over the events plan for two-way bicycle travel on a dangerous section of highway. Barbara Culp requested clarification on WSDOT's Event Policy procedures. This issue will be discussed at the next BPAC Meeting.

Steve Brown spoke as citizen and member of the Tacoma Wheelmen Bicycle Club. He discussed the need for a bike map for the State of Washington that would be similar to the one Oregon State produced. In addition, he provided a list of concerns to Paula Reeves.

Region Updates - All

Keith McGowan, I-405 Project Manager gave a project overview. Mr. McGowan discussed the planned improvements for bike/pedestrian facilities and requested comments on the plan.



Several Committee members asked questions and Keith will be following up with those individuals. He also offered to attend a future BPAC Meeting and provide a project update.

Each citizen and Region representative had an opportunity to highlight several bike and/or pedestrian projects in their regions. All of the reports distributed at the meeting are available as separate pages. Contact Paula Reeves at 360-705-7258 or

Reevesp@wsdot.wa.gov to receive copies.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Research Proposals – Leni Oman, Director, WSDOT's Research Office

Leni Oman, Director of Transportation Research at WSDOT gave an overview of the Transportation Research Office functions and funding resources for potential research projects.

The BPAC committee participated in a brainstorm exercise of potential research proposals. The following is a summary list of ideas that resulted:



National Level Research needed:

- Cost/Benefit on Multi-modal Projects (MICA) [Leni Oman]
- Reality of Liability Concerns – Bike/Ped (State, Local) [Todd S.]
- Resources for Sidewalk Construction - Best Practices [David L.]
- Effectiveness of Public Education/Legislation/Other Measures [David M]
- What would it take to get to Fed Goals? (15% increase in P/B; 10% decrease in fatalities) [Barb C/Paula]

National Level Research needed (continued):

- Effects of tinted windows on motorist compliance with P/B [David L]
- SHARROW on non-parking street segments of 4-lane section [David L/Jennifer C.]
- Ped Waiting Time. How long will peds wait for signal under various conditions. Create guideline for planners and traffic engineers. [Jennifer C.]
- Is ADA effective in facilitating crossing [WSDOT Design Office Rep.]
- Effectiveness of wayfinding devices for people with visual impairments in using the transportation system [David L.]
- Lighting effectiveness – visibility study Bike/Ped [Ernie G]

State Level Research needed:

- Risk Factors analysis and prioritization for Ped Risk and Bike Risk [David M]
- Resources for Sidewalk Construction - Best Practices, given [David L.]
- Speed Studies Analysis – Lower Speeds = less impact?
- Concurrency impacts on intersections [Jennifer C.]
- Ped Safety in Roundabouts [Mark S.]

Mark made a motion to ask staff to report back to the Committee on any findings of pre-existing research on this list, work with the appropriate Committee members to get expanded research proposals, and take the recommendations to the WSDOT Multi-modal Research Advisory Committee for discussion. David Levinger seconded the motion, and the motion carried (all in favor, none opposed). Additionally, the BPAC will also be asked to review a white paper describing the non-motorized research needs.

Washington's Transportation Plan and WSDOT's Non-motorized Plan - All

Renee Zimmerman offered to describe the WTP process as she is working on the WTP for WSDOT's Urban Corridors Office. Then Paula discussed the general non-motorized priorities for this plan update. There are nine key transportation issues this WTP will focus on. Bicycle and pedestrian issues will be included in several of these larger issues.

Paula discussed the difference between the WTP and WSDOT's Non-motorized Plan required by FHWA. At this point, Todd made a motion to form a subcommittee to work on this item and bring back to the larger group for discussion at their next meeting. Jennifer seconded the motion, and the motion carried (all in favor, none opposed).

The subcommittee members are Renee Zimmerman, David Levinger, Jennifer Campos, David McCulloch and Barbara Culp.

Safe Routes to Schools – *Barbara Culp, Executive Director of the Bicycle Alliance of Washington*

Barbara Culp described the new Safe Routes to Schools grant program created by the Legislature and included in their 2004 Supplemental Transportation Budget. There is \$1M available in funding and schools and school districts in Washington are eligible.

Committee members posed several questions and made some recommendations for the program committee to consider.

Update on Pilot Bike Route Signage Project and Rumble Strips Policy Implementation – *Barbara Culp, Executive Director of the Bicycle Alliance of Washington*

Barbara Culp discussed the progress of the pilot bicycle route signage project that was originally proposed by the BPAC. A group of stakeholders including: the City of SeaTac, King County, the City of Seattle, the Port, Bicycle Alliance, WSDOT, and others have been meeting for about one year to develop the project limits and define a specific route. The Port Commission is scheduled to discuss and approve/disapprove the project on May 11th.

The group briefly discussed several new rumble strip projects and Ernie brought to the committee's attention the inclusion of new vehicle technology that detects fog lines. The committee will invite WSDOT Design Office staff for more discussion at their next meeting.

Closing Comments

Mark reminded the Committee that the next meeting would be on September 18th, 2004 in South Central Region. Agenda items is an update of the following topics:

- WSDOT Events Policy and Process
- Research Projects
- Rumble Strips
- WTP and Non-Motorized Plan
- Safe Schools demonstration projects

Paula asked the group to mark their calendars for the Non-Motorized Design Workshop to be held on July 23, 2004 in the Seattle area as part of Seattle Bike Summer event.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.